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Ghost Town Resurrected: Exposing Diverse Archival and Educational Materials through Electronic Publishing

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Ghost Town Resurrected

Exposing Diverse Archival & Educational Materials Through Electronic Publishing

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Jessica Hayden, Technical Services Manager
University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO



UNIVERSITY OF
**NORTHERN
COLORADO**

Project Overview

What?

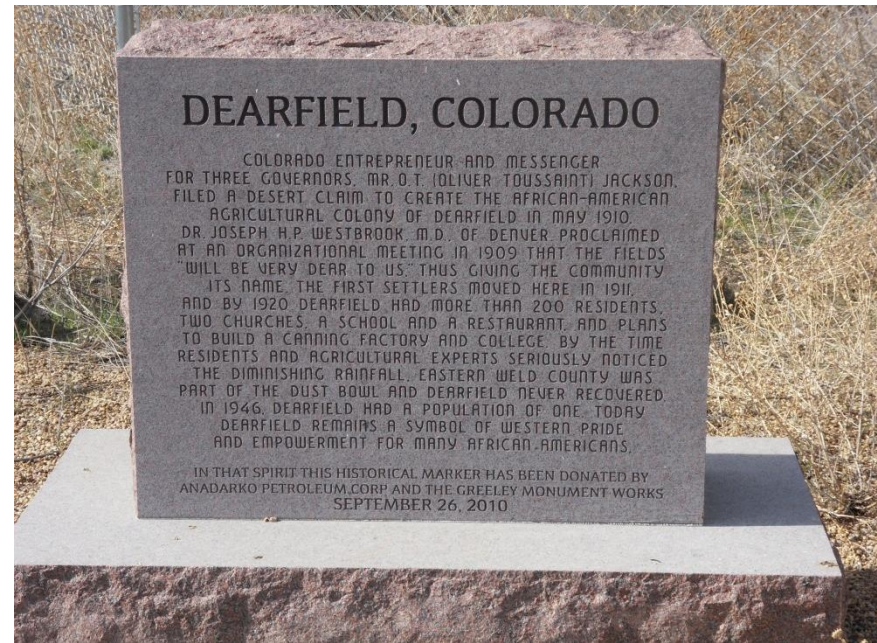
- An experiment to create an interactive, multimedia electronic book using digitized primary source materials.

Why?

- To make digital materials more widely available, package them to be more readily integrated into the classroom for teaching purposes.

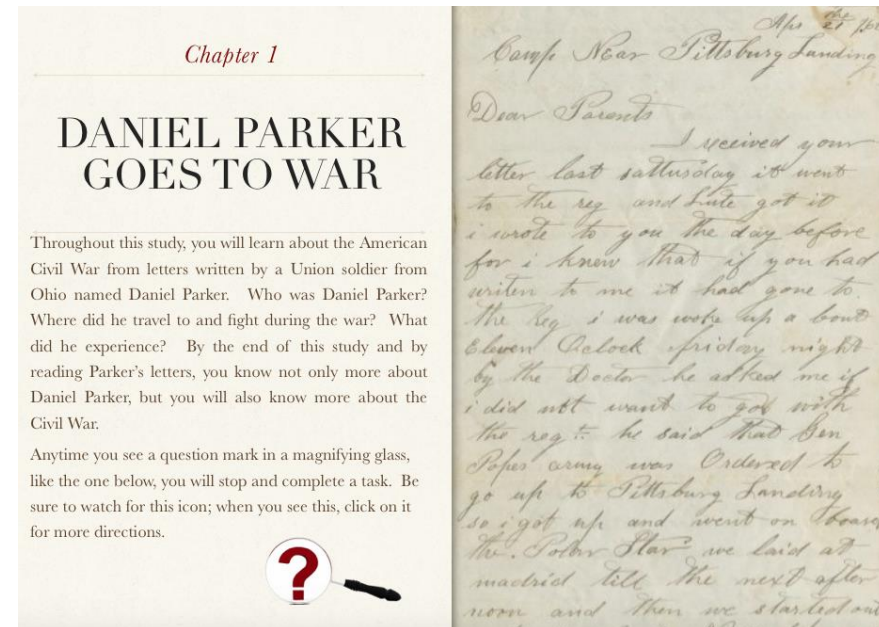
How?

- Using freely available software allowing users to create and publish electronic books.



Inspiration: Civil War Letters iBook

- Created by a high school teacher using a collection of Civil War-era letters that the library had digitized and made available in our repository.
- Book showcases the letters along with contextual information and links to additional digital resources from sources like the Library of Congress.



eBooks in Teaching

- Explosion in use of electronic devices and open educational resources in recent years.
- Studies show that students prefer interactive electronic book format over traditional learning tools.



What are iBooks?

- An e-book application created by Apple for use with its operating systems and devices.
- iBooks files can be downloaded via the iBooks store.
- A free application called iBooks Author allows users to create interactive books and distribute them in the iBooks store.



iBooks



The Dearfield Collection

- Contains materials related to the African-American agricultural settlement of Dearfield, Colorado.
- Contains documents that belonged to O.T. Jackson, the founder of Dearfield. Items include:
 - correspondence
 - maps
 - photographs
 - oral histories
 - newspaper clippings
 - business receipts
 - bank statements
 - land transfer documents
 - materials for recruiting colonists
 - census records
 - various other ephemera.

THE TOWN OF DEARFIELD WELD COUNTY



DEARFIELD LODGE

*A
Valley
Resort*



DEARFIELD LUNCH ROOM

Now that we have the best of accommodations here, the next thing is
"Where shall we go for a little recreation and a good country lunch or dinner?"



FILLING STATION



DEARFIELD IS THE PLACE!

LOCATED about 70 miles east of Denver on the Lincoln Highway 38, paved road all the way, this beautiful little town is an ideal spot for a summer outing. A beautiful 2-hour drive from Denver through many interesting towns and the finest farming section of Colorado. You can order your dinner in advance by phoning Weldona 68-R-5, and it will be ready when you arrive. After a splendid dinner you can—



BARN PAVILLION

DANCE
at the
BARN PAVILLION
GOOD MUSIC



GAS, OIL and AUTO SERVICE

If you care to fish or hunt in season, you will find this territory well adapted to these sports. If you care for a swim, there are many lakes and canals close at hand. If you are on your vacation you can find no better place to stop. FREE camp grounds, camp cottages for rent; and everything to make your outing enjoyable. Fine drives on every hand—through beautiful farming communities and the famous Eastern Colorado Oil Fields.

*Soft Drinks
Sandwiches
Ice Cream*



DENVER BRANCH SERVICE STATION, 723 E. 20th AVE.

*Cigars
Cigarettes
Candy*

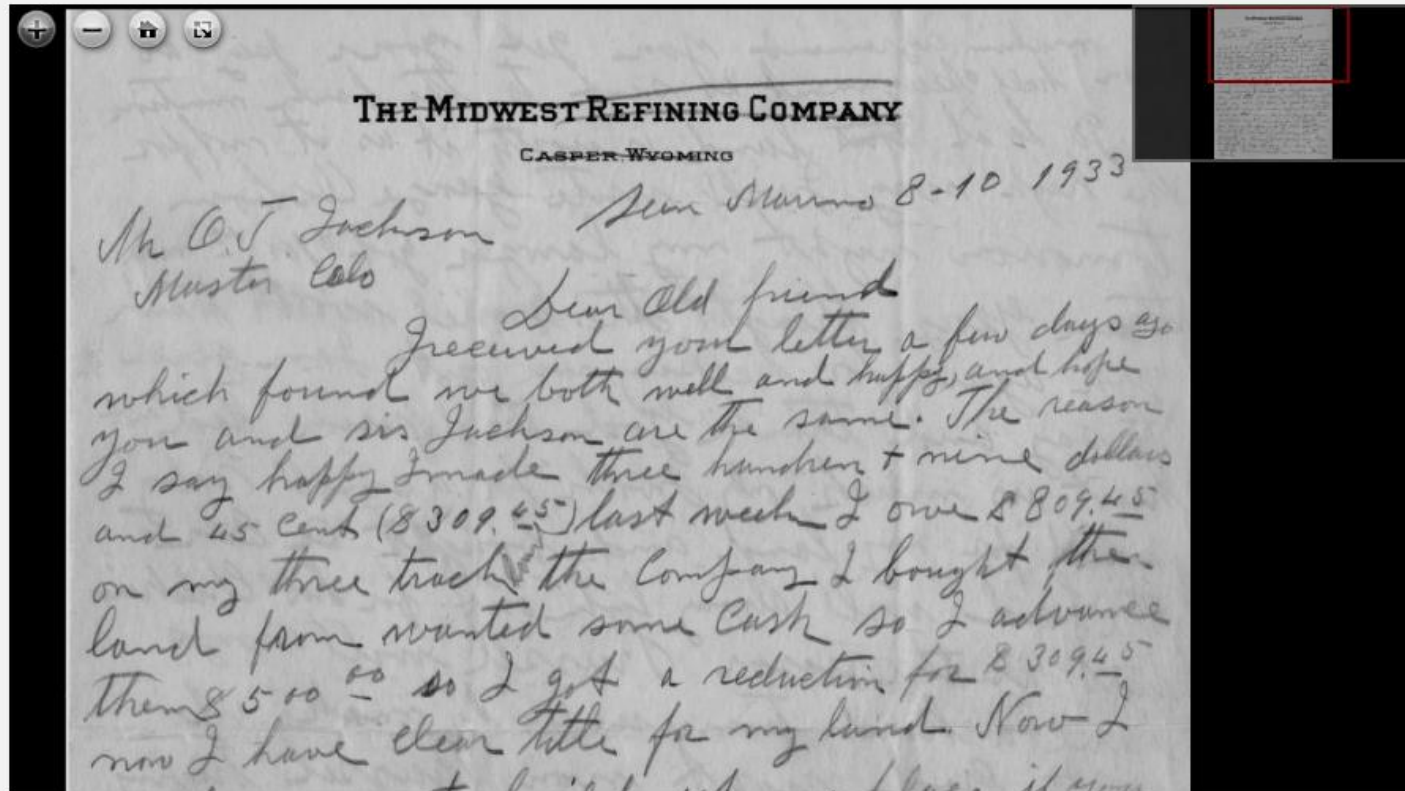
DEARFIELD is just an old-fashioned country visiting place of interest in Colorado. Don't miss a trip to Dearfield. You'll find a true western welcome awaiting you here!

O. T. JACKSON and MINERVA J. JACKSON, Proprietors

Postoffice Address: Dearfield, Masters, Colorado Phone Weldona 68-R-5

Dearfield Digitization

View MARCXML



INCA

instance



instance



instance



Three letters to O. T. Jackson from J. J. Houston, who has moved from Casper, Wyoming to San Marino, California and purchased land there. He discusses the value of his Standard Oil stock and asks Jackson to attempt to sell his land holdings [presumably in Dearfield].

Research Process

Locating resources

- Resources spread across Colorado's Front Range
- Oral histories, documents, photographs and artifacts
- Visits to various institutions and Dearfield site itself



Dearfield
Hesters P. O., Colo.
March 20, 1942

Hon. Ralph Carr,
Governor State of Colorado
Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado

Dear Governor Carr:

I was born at Oxford, Ohio, April 6, 1862, and came to Colorado from Cleveland, Ohio, April 4, 1887, and landed here with 20 cents and my trunk of clothing. On April 6, 1942, I will be 80 years old. I am married and have no children. Colorado has been most kind to me and the people of Colorado very considerate and helpful to me and my wife in our efforts to build a settlement.

We homesteaded out here May 10, 1910, and have made Dearfield our home ever since. While I was messenger to several Governors, I conceived the idea to try and establish a Negro Colony on some of the vacant state and government land in Colorado. The success or failure of the project can best be explained by those whom I cite as my references.

Partnerships

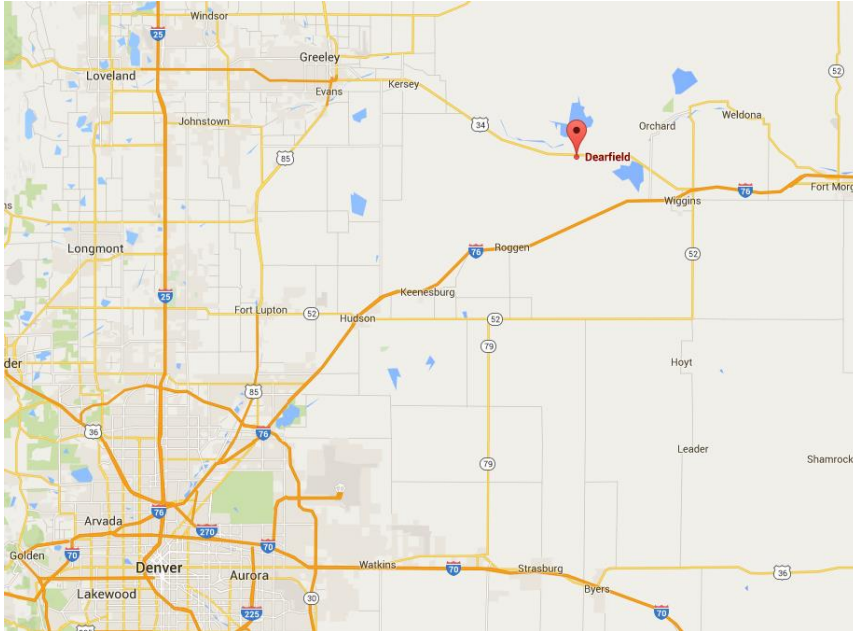
Collaboration

- Limited success creating partnerships with other institutions
- Some were reluctant to share their materials, others expressed interest but failed to follow through
- Were successful in getting assistance from two scholars at UNC who have expertise in history and archaeology of Dearfield



History of Dearfield

Geography and climate



- Approximately 70 miles northeast of Denver
- Situated on the Eastern Plains of Colorado
- Semi-arid climate



History of Dearfield

African-American colonization efforts



- Attempts to create all-Black towns in America can be traced to the 18th century
- Post-Civil War between 80-200 all-Black towns emerged throughout the West
- First attempts in Colorado in the 1870s



History of Dearfield

Oliver Toussaint Jackson



- Arrived in CO in 1887
- Caterer, dining services supervisor, restaurateur, messenger, farmer
- Inspired by Booker T. Washington



History of Dearfield

Foundations 1909-1914



- 1909: Negro Townsite and Land Company
- 1910: James Thomas, O. T. and Minerva Jackson are Dearfield's first settlers
- 1914: Dearfield is officially incorporated



History of Dearfield

Boom years 1915-1921



FILLING STATION

- 1915: Twenty-seven families living at Dearfield. Town has forty-four wooden cabins, a boarding house, store and church
- 1918-1919: Favorable weather conditions and war-time demand result in an economic boom
- 1920: Plans were being made to establish a fifty room hotel, a creamery, a canning factory and a bank
- 1921: Sixty families living in Dearfield



History of Dearfield

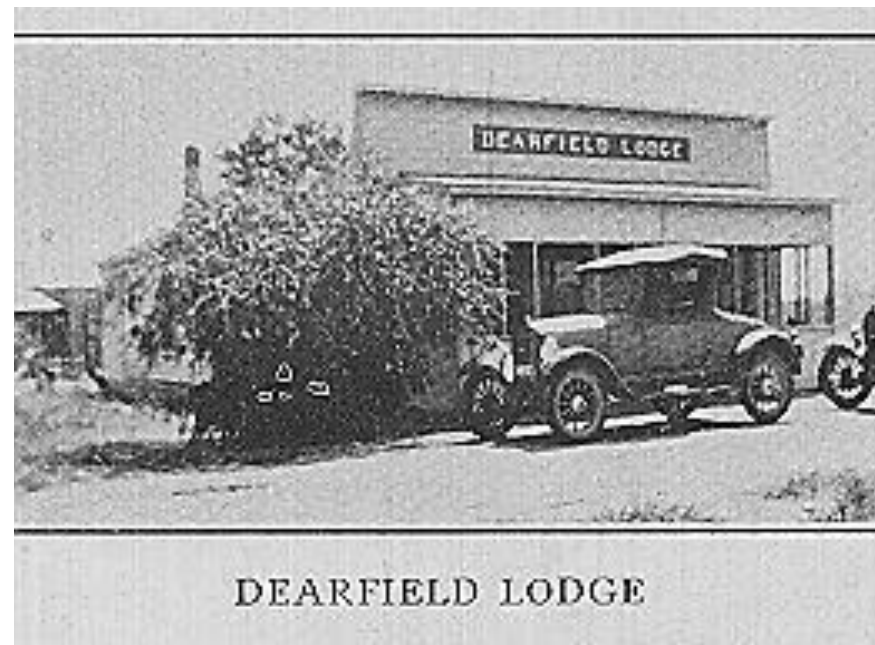
Decline 1922-1948



- 1922: Less than 3 inches of rain falls during the growing season and agricultural prices begin to drop
- 1925: Many Dearfield residents seek employment in Denver
- 1926: O. T. and Minerva Jackson advertise Dearfield as a “valley resort” encouraging African-American visitors to visit for the fish, game and dancing
- 1936: Townsite almost completely abandoned
- 1948: O. T. Jackson dies, leaving all remaining Dearfield interests to his niece

DEARFIELD, COLORADO Townsite and Settlement

*In the heart of a well developed and prosperous farming district
in Northern Colorado.*



Software Used



Open

iBooks Author

Create and publish amazing
Multi-Touch books for iPad and Mac.



iBooks Author 4+

Essentials

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What's New in Version 2.4

- ePub templates now support the Pop-Over widget
- Minor usability improvements to the ePub templates

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Information

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Price: Free

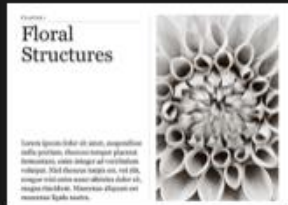
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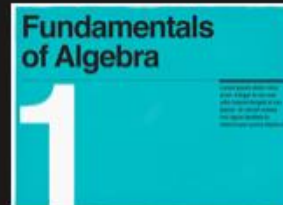
Landscape



Basic



Contemporary



Modern Type



Classic



Editorial



Craft



Photo Book



Antique



Cookbook



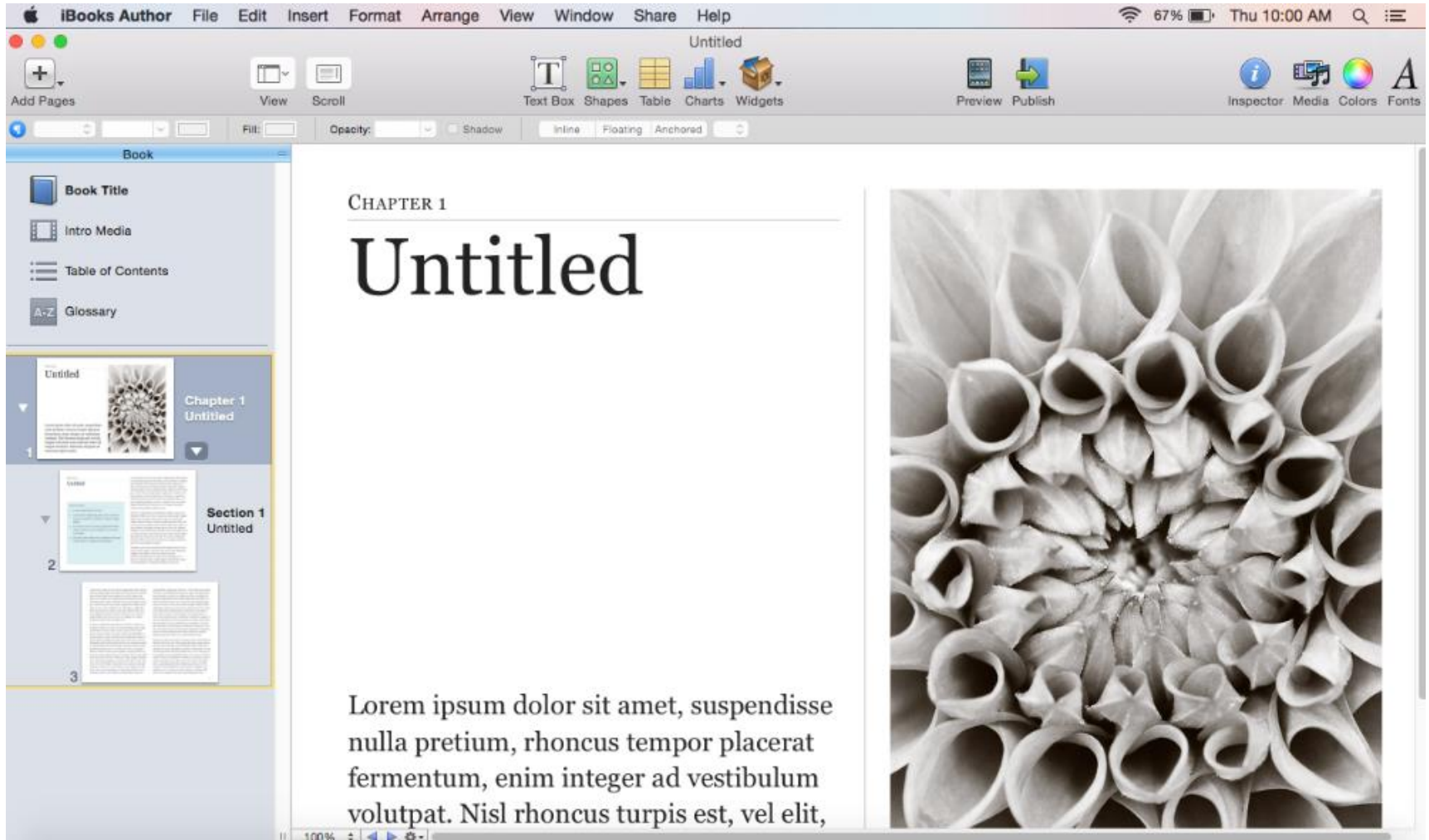
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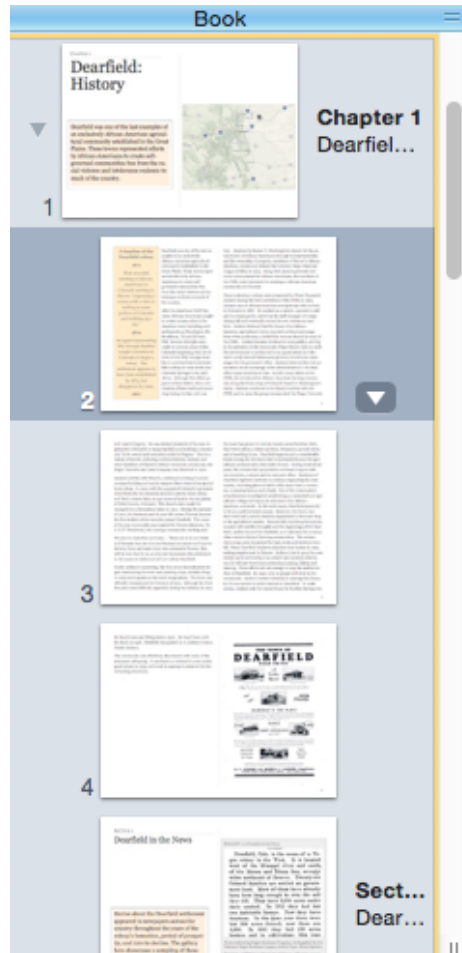
Portrait



Software Used



Software Used



A timeline of the Dearfield colony

1871

First recorded meeting of African-Americans in Colorado meeting to discuss "organizing a colony with a view to settling in some portion of Colorado and building up a city."

1872

An agent representing fifty Georgia families sought a location in Colorado to begin a colony. The settlement appears to have been established by 1875, but disappears by 1900.

1887

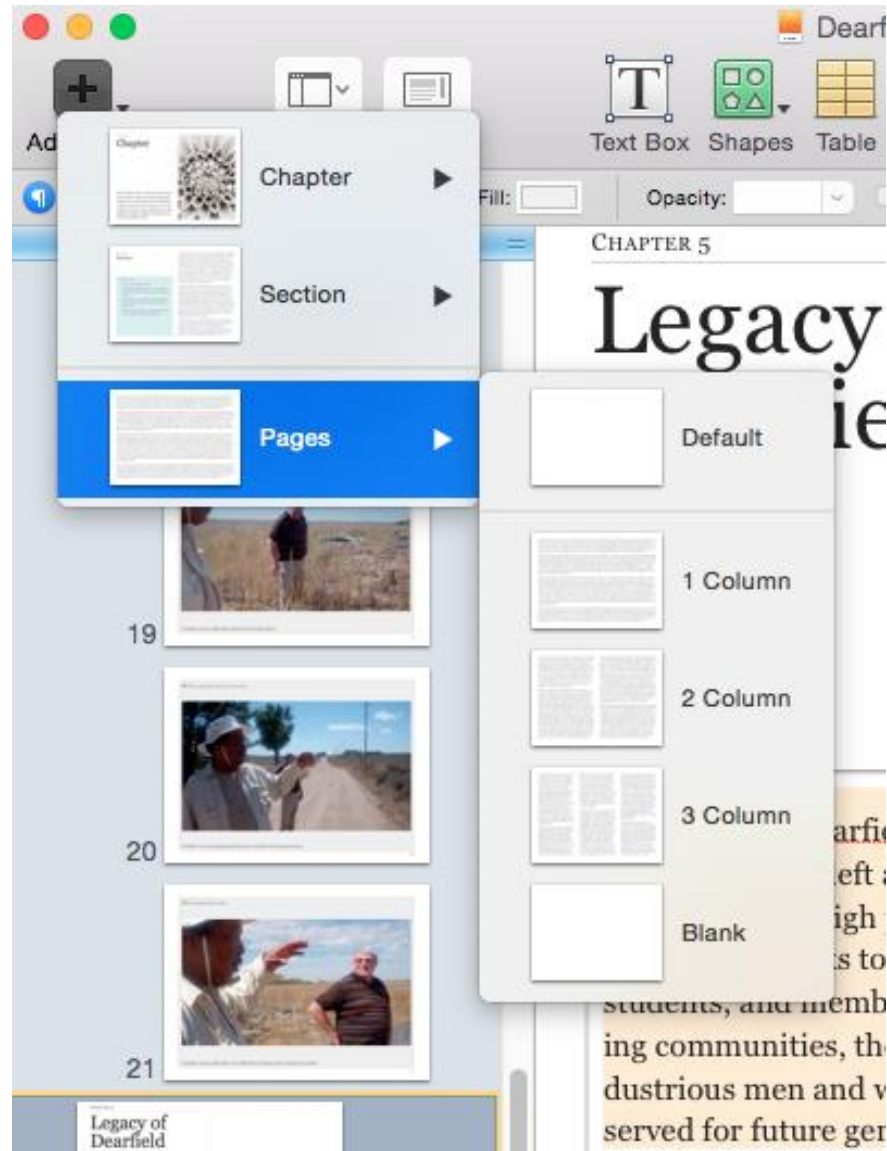
Dearfield was one of the last examples of an exclusively African-American agricultural community established in the Great Plains. These towns represented efforts by African-Americans to create self-governed communities free from the racial violence and intolerance endemic to much of the country.

After the American Civil War, many African-Americans sought to create communities in the American west, including such settlements as Nicodemus, KS, Kendleton, TX and El Vado, NM. Several attempts were made to colonize areas within Colorado beginning with the efforts of over fifty Georgia families to purchase land and establish a colony to raise stock near Colorado Springs in the early 1870s. Although this effort appears to have failed, other colonization efforts continued occurring during the late 19th cen-

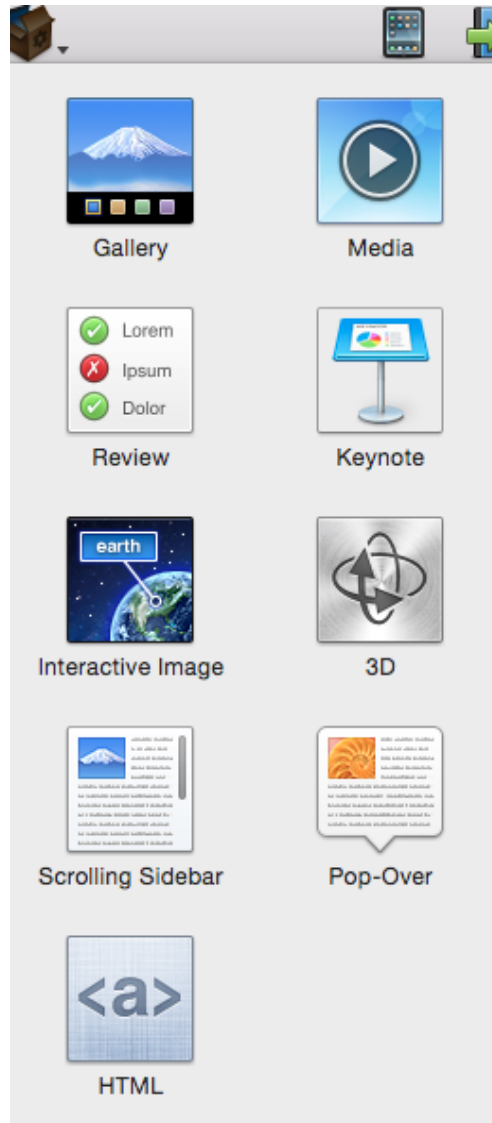
tury. Inspired by Booker T. Washington's dream for the advancement of African-Americans through entrepreneurship and the ownership of property, members of Denver's African-American community formed the Colorado Negro Business League (CNBL) in 1905. Along with plans to promote economic advancement for African-Americans, the members of the CNBL were interested in creating an African-American community in Colorado.

Plans to develop a colony were presented by Oliver Toussaint Jackson during the first convention of the CNBL in 1905. Jackson was an African-American entrepreneur who arrived in Colorado in 1887. He worked as a caterer, operated a café and ice cream parlor, served as the staff manager of a large dining hall and eventually owned his own restaurant and farm. Jackson believed that his dream of an African-American agricultural colony required political patronage from white politicians, a belief that was not shared by most of the CNBL. Jackson became involved in local politics, serving as the president of the Democratic Negro Bryant Club in 1908. His involvement in politics led to an appointment by Colorado's newly elected Democratic governor to serve as a messenger for the governor's office. Jackson believed that this association would encourage white administrators in the land office to pay attention to him. As with many others in the CNBL, he envisioned an African-American farming community along the front range of Colorado based on Washington's vision. Jackson continued to be closely involved with the CNBL and in 1909 the group incorporated the Negro Townsite

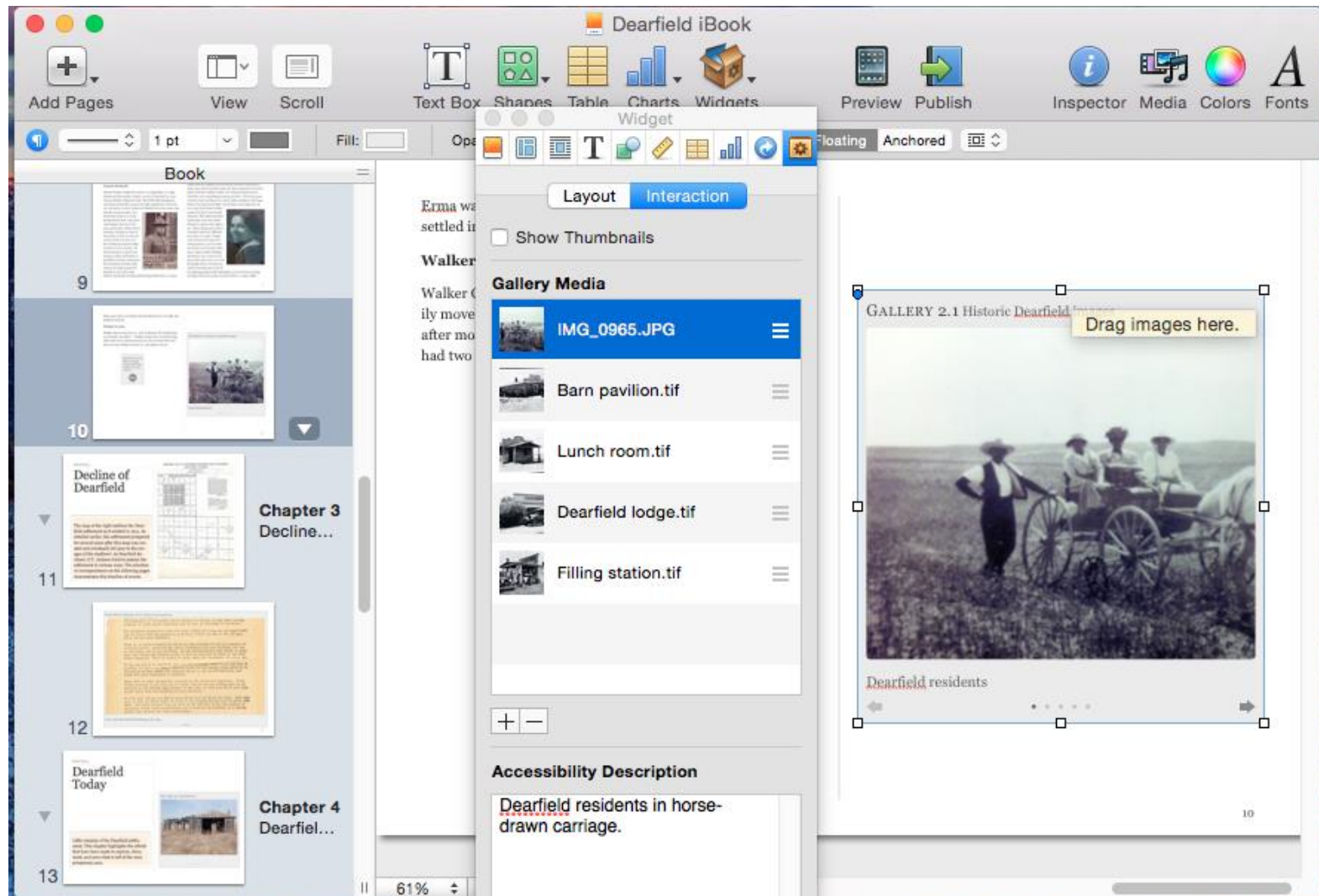
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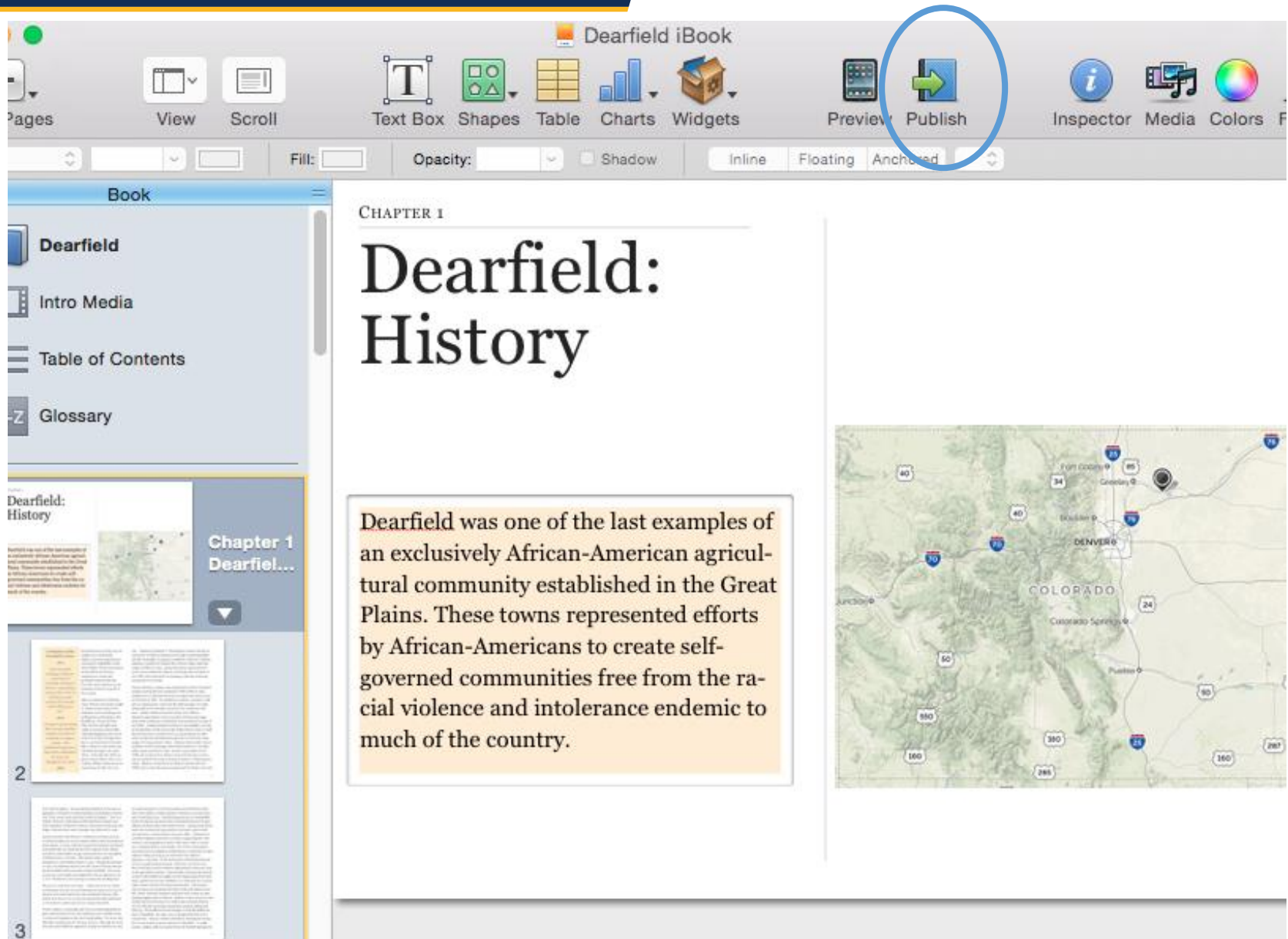
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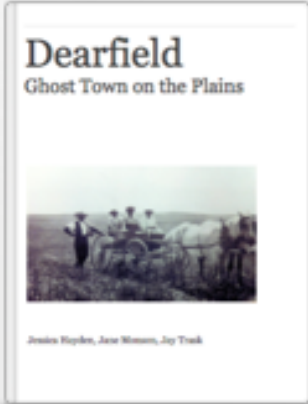
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Ghost Town on the Plains

Andrea Hayden, Jane Wilson, Jay Trach

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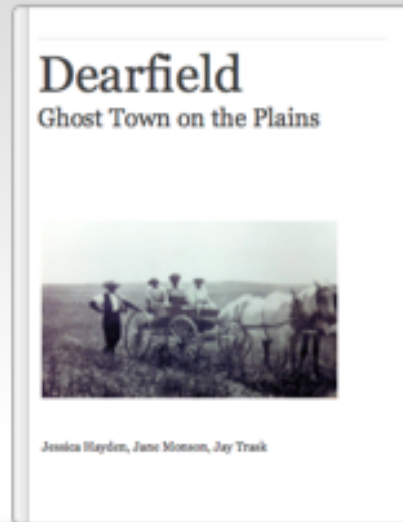
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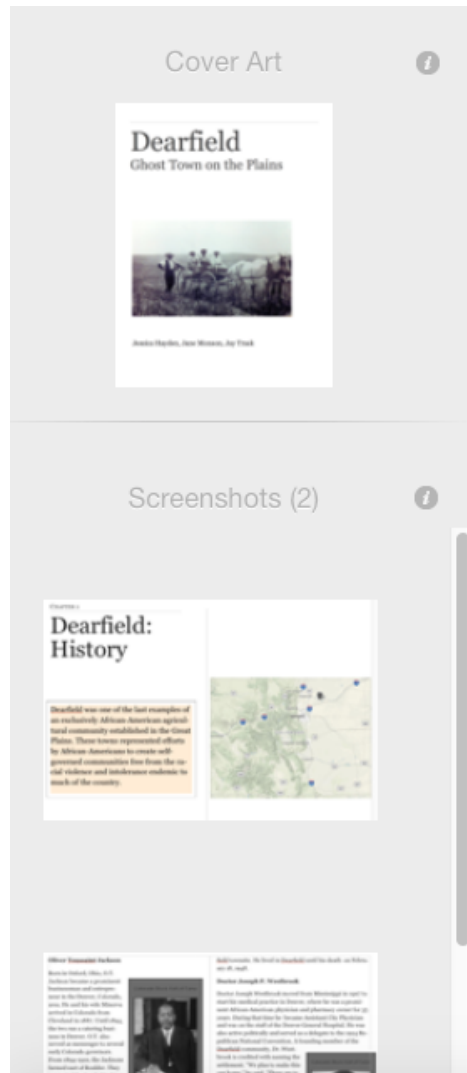
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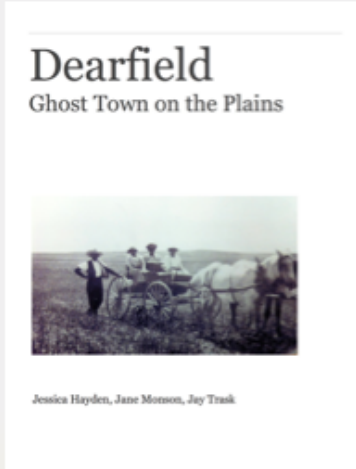
Dearfield

Ghost Town on the Plains

| | Series | Name (Optional) | |
|-----|---------------------------|--|---|
| + - | Author | Primary | Jessica Hayden Hayden, Jessica |
| + - | Author | Not Primary | Jane Monson Monson, Jane |
| + - | Author | Not Primary | Jay Trask Trask, Jay |
| | Description | Dearfield: Ghost Town on the Plains contains an historical overview of Dearfield, Colorado, an early African-American settlement on the eastern plains of Colorado. This book contains photos and a selection of primary source documents that showcase the rise and decline of the settlement. Modern preservation efforts and archaeological studies are also highlighted. | |
| + - | Subject Category | History | Americas (North, Central, South, W... ⓘ |
| + - | Interest Age (In Years) | Choose (Optional) | ⓘ |
| | Contains Explicit Content | No | |
| | Publisher | Jessica Hayden, Jane Monson, Jay Trask | |
| | Imprint (Optional) | ⓘ | |
| | Publication Date | 10/28/2015 | |
| | Book Language | English | |
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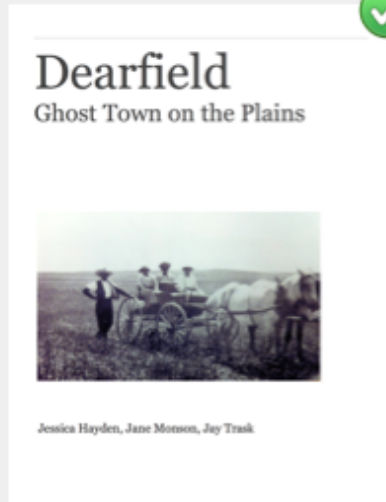
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